

When building a home, engineers and construction workers use a blueprint. The blueprint details where the plumbing goes, where the electrical outlets should be placed, the materials needed, and most all information needed for successful completion of the house. Without portions of the blueprints, a room may have no electrical outlets, the house may have no front door, or the house may be facing the wrong direction. It is, therefore, essential that construction workers have specific detailed directions on how a house should be built.

Just as a construction worker needs good blueprints to build a quality home, a food service vendor or caterer needs specific instructions regarding the food that you, as the buyer, want delivered.

Part 226.6(i) of the CACFP regulations require the following minimum specifications be placed in the blueprint or Invitation for Bid (IFB):

- The contractor shall maintain such records as the institution will need to support the monthly claim for federal reimbursement and shall provide invoices and delivery reports to the institution no less frequently than monthly. These records shall be available for inspection and audit by representatives of the State agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. General Accounting Office for a period of three years from the date of receipt of final payment under the agreement or until final resolution of any audits.
- The contractor shall have certification from the State health department or the local health department official deputized by the state health department for any facility in which it proposes to prepare food and/or serve meals and shall maintain this health certification for the duration of the agreement.
- The contractor shall ensure health and sanitation regulations are met at all times. The contractor shall provide meals for periodic inspection by the local health department to determine bacteria levels in the meals being prepared.
- Payment shall not be made for meals that are delivered outside of the agreed upon delivery time, are spoiled or unwholesome at the time of delivery, do not meet the requirements for each food component, or are delivered with potentially hazardous foods at temperatures between 41 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Any federally donated commodities received by the institution or school and made available to the contractor shall be used only for the food service program in that institution.
- A delivery schedule specifying when meals will be delivered and to what location.
- A provision allowing increases and decreases in the number of meals ordered.

- A cycle menu upon which the bid will be based.
- Meals provided by the contractor shall conform to the cycle menu upon which the bid was based, and to menu changes agreed upon by the institution and food service management company.
- Names and addresses of all state agency approved child care centers, child care homes, and outside school hours care centers to which food shall be delivered.
- The contractor will operate in accordance with current program regulations.
- All meals served under the contract shall meet the requirements of Part 226.20 of the CACFP regulations.
- The duration of the contract shall not exceed one year and shall include a termination clause whereby either party may cancel upon written notification.
- Provisions or conditions which will allow for administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms.
- An estimation of the number of meals which shall be provided over a period of one year.

Contracts in excess of \$150,000 shall:

- Contain provisions requiring compliance with Executive Order 11246 entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" as amended by Executive Order 11375.
- Contracts in excess of \$150,000 shall contain a provision which requires compliance with all applicable standards, orders, or requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act.

Part 226.21 of the CACFP regulations further state that the IFB:

- Shall not provide for loans or any other monetary benefit or terms or conditions to be made to institutions by food service management companies.
- Shall not include any nonfood items except for items that are essential to the food service (Example: straws, napkins, plastic utensils).
- Shall not specify special meal requirements to meet ethnic or religious needs unless special requirements are necessary to meet the needs of the children to be served.

Only by specifying the above items will prospective providers know exactly what the buyer wants. Sample IFBs for food service purchases are available upon request from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services – Community Food and Nutrition Assistance.

Reference: 7 CFR 226.6

7 CFR 226.21

7 CFR 226.22 CACFP 01-2013 Federal Small Purchase Threshold Adjustment CACFP 15-2013 Existing Flexibilities in the Child and Adult Care Food Program CACFP 04-2016 Local Agency Procurement Reviews: School Year 2015-2016